

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brandon for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ISAAC HARRINGTON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Isaac Harrington, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Isaac is a graduate of Mitchell High School in Mitchell, SD and the University of Notre Dame, where he majored in computer science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Isaac for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ISAIAH WONNENBERG

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Isaiah Wonnemberg, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Isaiah is a graduate of Gregory High School in Gregory, SD. Currently, he is attending University of South Dakota, where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Isaiah for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1447. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3458. An act to treat payments by charitable organizations with respect to certain firefighters as exempt payments.

H.R. 3509. An act to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3304.

The message further announced that the House concurs in the Senate amendment to the title of the bill (H.R. 3304) to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; concurs in the first three amendments to the text of the bill, without amendment; and concurred in the fourth amendment to the bill, with an amendment.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, for a term expiring on December 31, 2015: Mr. Daniel M. Slane of Ohio.

The message further announced that effective December 16, 2013, pursuant to section 2 of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1975 note), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Civil Rights for a term expiring December 15, 2019: Mr. Peter N. Kirsanow of Cleveland, Ohio.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1447. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3509. An act to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1824. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt certain lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux that contain brass.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 13, 2013, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1471. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of the Army to reconsider decisions to inter or honor the memory of a person in a national cemetery, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities during the 112th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs" (Rept. No. 113-125).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS for the Committee on Finance.

\*Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

\*Rhonda K. Schmittlein, of Missouri, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring December 16, 2021.

\*John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2017.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. 1823. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1824. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt certain lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux that contain brass; read the first time.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1825. A bill to improve the management of the Job Corps program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. NELSON, Ms. LANDRIEU,

Mr. MORAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1826. A bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 320. A resolution designating December 14, 2013, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COONS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 321. A resolution honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and expressing condolences on his passing; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1708

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1708, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the establishment of performance measures for the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt fire hydrants from the prohibition on the use of lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux.

S. RES. 317

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 317, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 319, a resolution expressing support for the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1825. A bill to improve the management of the Job Corps program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with Senator MCCASKILL and Senator MANCHIN to introduce the Securing Job Corps Centers Act, a bill that seeks to address the Job Corps' recent management challenges.

Job Corps is an educational and vocational training program administered by the Department of Labor, DOL, that helps at-risk young people ages 16 through 24 by giving them the tools they need to succeed. Job Corps has been training young adults for meaningful careers for nearly 50 years and is committed to offering its students a safe, drug-free environment where they can train and learn.

Job Corps' mission is to attract eligible young people, teach them the skills they need to become employable and independent, and help them find meaningful jobs or further their education. This mission has been threatened, however, by the Department of Labor's mismanagement.

Earlier this year, the DOL ordered a temporary suspension of new student enrollments as its way to address a significant Job Corps program shortfall of \$61.5 million. This was in addition to the \$39 million shortfall in the previous program year. The suspension of enrollments decimated the program, setting it back for years to come, which is especially upsetting considering Job Corps has compiled an impressive record over five decades in preparing at-risk youth for the workforce or higher education.

According to DOL, several factors contributed to Job Corps' financial problems, but the most significant was unchecked growth in expenditures due to serious weaknesses in the financial management processes. I wrote to DOL officials for clarification, and they responded with the following:

Job Corps lacked appropriate program monitoring tools and control protocols, including those to sufficiently analyze contractual spending trends. In turn, this led to inadequate spending projections for the Operations account.

It is clear that the Department of Labor has mismanaged this program, and the students suffered the consequences. There are two Job Corps centers in Maine that do excellent work to help these young adults become productive members of society. The Penobscot Job Corps Academy and the Loring Job Corps Center have the capability to serve nearly 800 at-risk youth on a daily basis. These centers put these young men and women on a path to earning their high school diploma and to gaining the necessary skills to enter the workforce or the military or go on to college.

However, the shortfall caused by DOL mismanagement forced these centers to furlough and lay off staff to reduce costs—jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of these centers and their important work.

Studies have found Job Corps to be among the most effective of all federally supported programs that serve youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who are disconnected from both school and work. Even in the face of unprecedented budget shortfalls and enrollment freezes, Job Corps has continued to produce impressive results—85 percent of graduates obtain a job, enroll in higher education, or enlist in the military.

To ensure recent management challenges are addressed as transparently and effectively as possible, our bill would create an advisory board responsible for working with the DOL to develop policy and programmatic recommendations related to Job Corps' administration. The advisory panel will provide a series of reports directly to the U.S. Secretary of Labor and Congress on budget and financial management protocols, cost efficiencies, and maximizing the number of youth served. Our bill will also require earlier notifications of management decisions at DOL that could affect student enrollments.

Job Corps' recent management challenges have had ripple effects throughout the communities served by Job Corps centers and continue to have an impact on center operations. The fact that every Job Corps center continues to operate at 21 to 25 percent below full capacity is the result of a management structure that forced operational decisions to be made in haste and without proper consideration of alternatives. An advisory board of experienced Job Corps operations experts can help the